

Listing of Claims

1.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a video system, the video system including a video input able to receive video information from an interactive head-end, a controller able to receive html information from the interactive head-end, a remote control with a menu button, a screen, and a store, the method comprising:

the interactive head-end monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine a normally-watched broadcast video program;

the controller copying the video program to the store if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a normally-watched program, because the normally-watched program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;

~~defining plural viewing channels, including a favorites channel, which is a channel that includes the user's normally watched previously automatically recorded programs;~~

on certain of said channels, presenting television programs for viewing;

on at least one of said channels, presenting said copied video program for viewing;

maintaining the copied video program after viewing;

generating profiles for plural users, said profiles comprising user viewing habits and at least two other user features comprising a game habit, a chat habit, zip code, an interactive news habit, or a jukebox habit, the profiles being further based on time-of-day viewing habits;

correlating similar profiles into affinity groupings;

in response to a query by a viewer transmitted from the controller to the interactive head-end, suggesting a specific program to a viewer that the viewer has never watched, based upon similar preferences determined from said affinity groupings; and

permitting a viewer to break from the video program by receiving a pause command from the viewer and sending the pause command to the interactive head-end to interrupt delivery of the video program;

if the break exceeds a predetermined time threshold, returning an assigned transmission channel to a pool of available transmission channels and upon resuming, assigning a different transmission channel to the transmission of the video program.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a video system, the system including a video input, an interactive controller, an interactive head-end, a screen, a remote control with a menu button, and a store, the method comprising:

the interactive head-end, through information passed by the interactive controller, monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine at least one favorite broadcast video program, a favorite broadcast program comprising a broadcast program usually watched by the user, said monitoring further including time-of-day viewing habits;

in response to a query by the user transmitted from the interactive controller to the interactive head-end, suggesting a video program to the user that the viewer has never watched, based upon similar preferences of other viewers determined from said monitoring, said preferences of other viewers including both the favorites of the other viewers and the other viewer's time-of-day viewing habits;

copying the video program to the store if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a favorite program, because the favorite program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;

~~defining plural viewing channels, including a favorites channel, which is a channel that includes the user's previously automatically recorded favorite program;~~

on certain of said channels, presenting television programs for viewing; and

in response to indication of activation of the menu button from the remote control, providing an on-screen video control panel with a play button on a designated channel, presenting said copied video program for viewing;

pausing one of the television programs by sending a pause command to the interactive head-end to interrupt delivery of the program;

if the pause exceeds a predetermined time threshold, returning an assigned transmission channel to a pool of available transmission channels using a different transmission channel for resuming the paused program.

8.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ including executable instructions that cause a digital processor to perform a method, the executable instructions comprising:

instructions for monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine a favorite video program;
instructions for copying the favorite video program to a storage medium if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a favorite program, because the favorite program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;

instructions for defining plural viewing channels including a favorites channel, which is a channel that includes the user's previously automatically recorded favorite program;

instructions for generating profiles for plural users connected to an interactive head-end, said profiles comprising user viewing habits including at least a time-of-day viewing habit and at least two other user features comprising a game habit, a chat habit, zip code, an interactive news habit, or a jukebox habit;

instructions for correlating profiles similar to the first user into an affinity grouping; and
in response to a query by the first user transmitted from the interactive controller to the interactive head-end, instructions for suggesting a video program to the first user that the first user has never watched, based upon similar preferences of other viewers within the affinity grouping

instructions for pausing a television program by sending a pause command to an interactive head-end to interrupt delivery of the television program;

if the pause exceeds a predetermined time threshold, returning an assigned transmission channel to a pool of available transmission channels and using a different transmission channel for resuming the paused television program.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 14, further including:

instructions for monitoring the user's viewing habits to determine a ranking of viewed broadcast video programs by viewing frequency;

instructions for copying to the storage medium plural programs that are not viewed by the user when broadcast, in accordance with said ranking;

executable instructions comprising instructions for listing the automatically copied favorite video program in a favorites channel in an electronic programming guide.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for listing the automatically copied favorite video program in the favorites channel by title and length.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for automatically playing the copied favorite video program when the favorites channel is selected.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for listing plural copied video programs from which the copied favorite video program can be selected for play back.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
selecting a specific program for viewing, wherein the specific program is suggested to the viewer in response to a viewer's inquiry.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
selecting a specific program for viewing, wherein the specific program is suggested to the viewer autonomously.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 15, wherein overwriting non-viewed copied video further comprises overwriting the program by time of copy.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage device ~~medium~~ of claim 22, wherein the ranking is by time of copy, and wherein the program that was recorded first is overwritten first.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising deleting at least one of the plural programs copied to store.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the deleting is done by time of copy.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein an oldest copy is deleted.